

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 1-2 and 4-29 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview held November 21 2005, the substance of which is reflected herein.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 3 and Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or any disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

The rejections of Claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, are respectfully traversed. These rejections are addressed in the order they appear in the Office Action.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "a tab which engages in a recess in each said second face of each protective case." Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Claim 2 is amended to recite "the information carriers" rather than "said" information carriers in accordance with the kind suggestion of the Examiner. Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Claims 5, 7 and 11 are amended to recite “each recess” rather than “the recess.” Accordingly, the claim terms all have proper antecedent basis and the claim language is clear and definite.

Claims 8 and 9 are amended to clarify that the center of mass of each of the protective cases is arranged to cause the desired degree of automatic pivoting. Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Claim 13 is amended to recite that “the protective case is associated with the rear wall and has a correspondingly shaped groove.” Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Claims 18 and 19 are amended to recite “at least one connecting device.” Claim 19 is also amended to recite that a connecting element is arranged at least in sections inside each respective recess. Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Claims 20-22 are amended to recite the arrangement of “the at least one groove-shaped recess.” Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Claim 24 is amended to recite “a rear wall of the holding element.” Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Claim 28 is amended to recite a “light source” rather than “lighting means.” Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Claim 29 is amended to recite that “the light source is integrated into a cover element.” Accordingly, the claim language is clear and definite.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 1, 3-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 1,358,833 to Dolman and of Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,690,221 to Yeh are respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 is cancelled, as indicated above, rendering this portion of the rejection moot.

As amended, Claim 1 recites a device for storing a plurality of protective cases on a holding element, wherein each protective case can be detached from the holding element in the storage position. Claims 2, 4-9 and 11-16 are all dependent from Claim 1 and therefore include all of the elements of Claim 1.

Neither of the cited references disclose or suggest a protective case that can be detached from the holding element in the storage position. The Office Action itself suggests that Dolman teaches a device where a protective case may be pivoted from a storage position to a removal position (see paragraph 4 of the Office Action). This is significantly different from the presently claimed invention where the protective case may be removed directly from the holding element while in the storage position. In such an apparatus, there is no need to pivot the protective case from a storage position to a removal position before removal of the protective case. Accordingly, the cited references fail to teach each and every element of the claims and the anticipation rejection cannot be

properly maintained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 17-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over either Dolman or Yeh in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,859,007 to Schapker. Claims 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Dolman or Yeh in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,515,979 to Salvail. Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Dolman or Yeh in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,341,412 to Brown. Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Dolman or Yeh in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,316,039 to Drobny. Claims 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Dolman or Yeh in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,722,034 to Ackeret.

These rejections all rely on either Dolman or Yeh as a primary reference and they are all respectfully traversed. Claims 17-29 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Amended Claim 1 recites, in part, a device for storing a plurality of protective cases on a holding element, wherein each protective case can be detached from the holding element in the storage position. As discussed above, neither of the primary references, Dolman or Yeh, teaches this claim element. Further, neither of these references suggests such an arrangement.

The various secondary references all fail to remedy this deficiency in the primary references and thus fail to meet the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly,

even assuming, *arguendo*, that one of skill in the art were to try to combine the various references, the resulting combination would still not teach or suggest all of the elements of the presently claimed device. Accordingly, the obviousness rejection cannot be properly maintained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

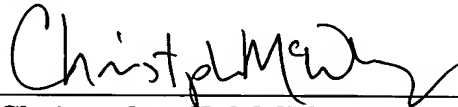
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Serial No. 10/763,387
Amendment Dated: November 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed: August 25, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 100584.53196US

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #100584.53196US).

November 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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